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**The individual courtship behaviour of male European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) is a good indicator for their breeding success**

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#### Highlights

- Courtship and mating behaviour of male European mink was related to mating success.
- Over 50 % of the captive males did not present the species-specific mating behaviour.
- “Clucking” was a vocalisation observed in breeding attempts with “breeding males”.
- Breeding attempts with males that didn’t “cluck” never ended with mating of the pair.

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